

USDA/Rural Development

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News Release

TX-117.03

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES GRANT FUNDING FOR PANHANDLE COMMUNITY SERVICES

Amarillo, Texas, September 18, 2003--Bryan Daniel, Texas State Director, USDA Rural Development today announced that Panhandle Community Services was awarded a \$157,920 grant through the Rural Housing Service Housing Preservation Grant (HPG) program.

"USDA Rural Development is very pleased to be able to provide housing rehabilitation funding for rural Texans," said Daniel. "It is our goal to ensure rural residents are afforded an opportunity to live in decent housing that meets basic health and safety standards and provides the benefits of energy efficient features."

USDA funds will be used to assist 35 families with essential home repairs in 26 Panhandle counties. The estimated population of these counties is 360,000, with 9% being very low income. Each county will receive assistance based on the total population, percentage of low income and amount of funds available and areas of greatest need. The funds will be used to conserve energy and improve accessibility for the handicapped.

The purpose of the HPG program is to promote sustainable economic development in rural communities by making grants to sponsoring organizations for the repair or rehabilitation of low and very-low income housing. Grants are competitive and are made available in areas where there is a concentration of need.

For more information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, contact the USDA Local Service Center in Amarillo at (806) 468-8600, ext. 4.

USDA Rural Development is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider, and Employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410.

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The USDA Rural Development mission area was created in 1994 and includes the Rural Business-Cooperative Service, the Rural Housing Service, and the Rural Utilities Service. Its mission is to use the resources of USDA to provide an improved quality of life for the nation's 53 million rural people.

For more information on USDA Rural Development programs in Texas, check our web site at
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

